

Volume 10, Edition 11

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club **WIRELESS**



December 2006



**CAN YOU SPOT THE HIDDEN ANTENNA FARM
IN THIS SHOT FROM DAVE, KD6FIL'S,
SCOTLAND TRIP?**

FROM THE TOP

This year, 2006, is almost over.
The club will have a new
beginning in 2007. Good luck to

the new officers. On a personal note, Linda and I will miss all of the members of VOMARC and the ACS group.

I thank all of you for the privilege of serving as your President. I have learned a lot over the last 4-5 years that I have been associated with this group. I have made it my earnest priority to get my General class license to be able to contact this area by HF. I will also seek out the IRL and Winlinks on 2mtrs and 440.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DAN Sorrick, KG6LJN

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our Christmas dinner will be at Grandma's Cal-Italia Restaurant, Maxwell Village Shopping Center, Sonoma Highway, on Wednesday, December 13, at 6:30 pm.

You will receive a place card at the door when you arrive. This will help your server with your meal selection.

You may pay the restaurant directly by cash or credit card. or you may make a check to VOMARC and Ken will settle with the restaurant. The bill will include your entree, beverage, and gratuity. If you order desert or wine, or beer, it will also be included.

Thank U'ALL for getting your menu in, it helped in planning.

IF ANY ONE WISHES TO ATTEND, YOU MAY. SO DONT LET THE "I DIDN'T GET IN ON TIME" STOP YOU FROM JOINING US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY.

SCOTTISH DX

Driving in Scotland is not hard, as long as you remember to stay to the left and let your wife drive the whole time. Though the double roundabout in Ayr did have us stumped the first time through.

Jane and I ventured off to Scotland this summer. I took my handheld and APRS setup to try and beacon my way across Scotland. As some of you know, the APRS did not work out as well as planned.

The website FINDU.COM showed stations were reporting positions in Scotland, but I was not able to report any positions and I did not hear any stations beaconing during our travels.

The APRS frequency in Europe is 144.800 (144.390 in the US). There are repeaters located throughout the country, but in the rugged Highlands of Scotland, the coverage is limited. I did not hear any activity on repeaters and only heard one station working a satellite.

The amateur radio license requirements are straightforward and information

is available on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/cept-info.html> . Most of Europe follows the same rules. You need to bring your license and a copy of the reciprocal license agreement.

It is a good idea to download the band and frequency restrictions for the country you plan to operate in as you will be operating under that countries license requirements.

Though I did not have much luck on the handheld, I did have the good fortune to contact John, MM1JAS of the Ayr Radio Club, GM0AYR, (<http://www.gm0ayr.org>) by email while I was still at home.

When I arrived in Ayr, I gave John a call and he invited me over to meet some of the club members. We went to the home of Andy, GM3CSO, for coffee and a visit with a few of the club. Andy, Dave, MM0BPS and Dennis, GM3YDN are active CW operators and have a local CW net every morning on 160m.

It was wonderful to meet other amateur operators and see that the hobby is alive and well in Scotland.

The Ayr Radio Club activates the Turnberry Lighthouse as GB2LT during the International Lighthouse on the Air Weekend and has had special event stations for other historic events and celebrations in the area.

Traveling with your handheld is easy. I packed it into my carry

on gear and put a mag mount antenna in my suitcase. Be sure to check your airline restrictions, because things change rapidly.

It wasn't possible to charge the batteries for the HT, but I did have a cigarette lighter power cord to operate in the car. The APRS didn't work this time, but I will try it again on my travels. I think that in more populated areas the APRS might work better.

It is possible to email position information into FINDU.COM and another internet site that can take position reports is WINLINK (<http://www.winlink.org>) also takes position reports.

If you are interested in meeting local hams when you travel, the internet has a lot of information. A little homework before you hit the road can be rewarding, as I found in my trip to Scotland.

A special thanks to John for arranging the meeting with the Ayr Radio Club, and Andy and his sister for opening their house for my visit. 73 and hope to hear you on the air (or is that Ayr?).

Dave, KD6FIL

MINUTES

VOMARC Minutes November 15, 2006

There were 23 in attendance with Ed Caine there in absentia as he is still recuperating.

Meeting was called to order at 7:40PM.

Introductions and welcome to visitors and guest speaker were done.

Minutes were accepted as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report: There is \$1719.76 in the bank and all our bills are currently paid. Dues are once again payable. Check your newsletter label for current membership expiration date.

Old Business:

Nominations and election of officers:

Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN, is moving, so cannot serve another term as president.

After several nominations that were declined. Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL, was nominated for president, and Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, was nominated for vice president. Nominees for other offices were: Treasurer, Ken McTaggart, N6KM; Joan Brady, W6WXU, Secretary; Jim Hill, K6UUW, Education Director. Elections were unanimous.

The club dinner and installation of officers will be Wednesday, December 13, 2006, 6:30PM, at Grandma's Cal Italia Resturaunt in Maxwell Village.

The price of the dinner is \$25.00 payable to the treasurer at the

door the night of the dinner. There is a \$9.00 cork-age fee for those who wish to bring their own wine. Cal Italia does have a wine bar.

Menus were distributed and members present made there meal choices so Cal Italia can plan the dinners. If you were not present, please contact President, Dan Sorrick, for information and your meal choice. Cal Italia needs a head count prior to the dinner.

New Business:

The Baker to Vegas race is April 20 - 21, 2007. Contact Jim Hill, K6UUW, if you are interested in participating.

There is a DX contest April 28, 2007.

There was discussion of moving the Ham Fest to either April 14, or May 5, 2007, so it would not conflict with the DX convention. However, after contacting the county, the Veteran's Memorial Building is reserved for all weekends in May.

It was decided to keep the Ham Fest the last Saturday on April as usual. We need to get the information to ARRL by the first of January for it to be published in QST.

ACS report:

The EOC needs to be relocated to the fire house by mid January. There is to be a meeting with Steve Marler,

Chief Day and Jim Hill regarding the actual move. Volunteers are needed to dismantle equipment and move and set up some and put other equipment in storage. There was discussion of getting new antennas for the fire house.

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, and Jan Bush, AE6FQ, participated in the hospital drill, taking the early shift and going to the hospital at 5AM. This was requested by the hospital so that the night crew could participate in the drill.

Jim Hill, K6UUW, and Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN, came in about 9:00AM. The usual complaint about lousy message handling was received. Otherwise, the drill went well.

Joel Nadler, NN6J, reminded us there is a VE session at McDougal Hall this Saturday, November 18, 2006. The VE team needs to be there by 8:30AM. The test starts at 9:00AM.

Joel sent requests for participation to 14 VE members and only 7 have replied. He needs replies from EVERYONE, either yes or no. The question arose that if we can't prove people to man the VE session, how can we sponsor VE sessions?

That led to discussion of dropping the VE sessions. The question was then raised as to the effect dropping our sponsorship of VE sessions would have on our service club

status. We will keep sponsoring VE sessions.

Our next VE session is in January, 2007, although the first one in 2006 was February 18, 2006, so the date will be confirmed. There was discussion of coordinating our VE sessions with those of other clubs in the area as it is known that the Hamilton Wireless does theirs the same week end as ours.

The club received a QSL card from K2AE, Scenectedy, NY from Field day (CW contact). (Other QSL cards received from field day were shown at the club breakfast).

Ed Caine, KA6OFR, is doing well. He'll be on the air until it is OK to have visitors or be out and about (Ed was at the club breakfast on Dec. 2nd.)

Steve Marler, KD6KVY, showed us a small cabinet that anyone who can use it can have. Also, showed us some PC's and monitors that will be part of the EOC equipment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM and the program commenced. The program on D-Star, Amateur Digital Mode for the 21st Century, was presented by Tim, K6BIV.

Anyone wishing further information on D-Star or a copy of the handout given at the meeting can e-mail Tim as K6BIV@MAC.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan, W6WXU, Secretary

VOMARC c/o Ken McTaggart
N6KM 938-2626,
kmct@vom.com.

FOR SALE:

HF equipment:

All items believed to be in good working condition.
Kenwood TS 140S HF transceiver-\$350
MFJ 962C Versa Tuner III. 1.5 kW antenna tuner
Heathkit SB200 linear amplifier - \$200
Johnson Viking kW Match Box - \$200
Kenwood PS 430 power supply
MFJ 422-B electronic keyer paddle
Ham Keyer HK5A keyer

VHF/UHF equipment, near new condition. Both items barely used.

Astron RS 20A power supply.
Kenwood TM 742A tribander 2M/440/1.2 with tower antenna and mag-mount.

Eran, KD6KVO, 996-8933,
glago@comcast.net

Kantronics All Mode Communicator, a TNC that will do Morse (CW), RTTY, ASCII, AMTOR and Packet on HF and Packet on VHF/UHF. With manual and in good working order. \$50.00

32 foot crank-up mast and base by Tristao. Will support tri-band antenna easily. \$100.00. Base needs some repair.

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 10 EDITION 11

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN - President
Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL- Vice-President
Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Treasurer
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair
Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - ACS
Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister
Joel Nadler, NN6J - VE Liaison
Jim Hill, K6UUW, Elmer Coordinator
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE:
<http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:
wd6bor@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

**Valley of the Moon
ARC
175 First Street**

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**NOTICE!!! THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS THE
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY ON WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 13, AT 6:30 P.M. AT GRANDMA'S CAL-
ITALIA RESTAURANT IN THE MAXWELL VILLAGE
SHOPPING CENTER
CU THERE!**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2007 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$_____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, 402 Fourth Street East, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**